

Santa Fe New Mexican, the West's oldest newspaper, and one by David Broder of the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Santa Fe New Mexican, May 3, 2007]

JEFF, PETE PROVIDE BOOST FOR SCIENTIFIC RESURGENCE

David Broder's right: Senate approval of the America COMPETES Act, he notes in today's column, is big news. This nation lurched from lethargy to the moon during the dozen exciting years that followed Russia's launch of a man-made earth satellite—then most of us went back to our beer and barbecues, leaving all too few dedicated individuals fighting to keep us in the big leagues of pure science and high technology. Thus this act.

It might have gotten short shrift from the national press, but the importance of this bill wasn't lost on The New Mexican's Andy Lenderman: He reported, on the front page of our local news section Saturday that this was overdue action on the math-and-science front.

The measure, the full name of which is America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Education and Science Act of 2007—an aggravating cuteness whose creator should be banished to Madison Avenue—features a four-year, \$16-billion authorization of new money to invest heavily in physical-sciences research, recruitment of new math and science teachers nationwide, while updating those in the field. It would be part of a \$60 billion campaign to put America back—and in some areas keep it—at the cutting edge of theoretical and applied science.

Lenderman noticed that the bill, with Majority Leader Harry Reid's sponsorship, was approved by an 88-8 tally. But at least as important as the political weight was the groundwork laid by New Mexico's senators:

Jeff Bingaman, who has spent so much of his Capitol Hill career urging his colleagues to support the sciences and academics in general, sponsored a 2005 study—the report of which carried a title both ominous and promising: “Rising Above the Gathering Storm.” It told our nation of the challenge from China, India and other nations in science and technology—which could cost our country its competitiveness in world markets.

If evidence were needed to support that concern, we need only look at our schools: Only 29 percent of eighth-graders nationwide tested proficient in science. In New Mexico, only 18 percent did.

This isn't a Sputnik situation of 50 years ago, where within four months America had its own satellite in orbit while back on earth science fairs were the rage; this is a case of math-dedicated cultures creeping past one of B.A. generalists dedicated to fun, comfort and prestige predicated on material goods.

It'll take more than money to rebuild momentum: Some of America's many Renaissance-person scientists must be persuaded to sing the glories of research—or at least the joys and rewards of what sometimes results from it. Computers as tools and toys, too, should help.

What's great is that Bingaman and fellow Sen. Pete Domenici, so often teammates in bipartisan congressional initiatives, have put their skills and influence together for this push. They're their parties' highest-ranking members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and Domenici still is influential on the budget and appropriations committees.

New Mexico, with its national scientific laboratories, stands to benefit from this initiative—which comes, we hope, en buena hora for the people of our region: Just last week, contractors at Los Alamos National Laboratory laid off scores more of the workforce.

The construction and maintenance people there have always been at the mercy of LANL's whims, and those of its academic and technical allies. But some of their children are seeing the need for higher education to provide them more steady work. The America COMPETES Act could raise awareness of, and provide support for, generations of homegrown scientific and technical people.

The bill still must make it through the House of Representatives—and as Broder implies, our nation's news media could and should help the effort along.

[From the Washington Post]

COMPETES ACT IS REAL BOOST, REAL NEWS
(By David Broder)

On Monday, with few of his colleagues present and the Senate press galleries largely unoccupied, Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee took the floor to make one of those personal statements that fill the Congressional Record, but rarely go any further.

“Last week,” he said, “while the media covered Iraq and U.S. attorneys, the Senate spent three days debating and passing perhaps the most important piece of legislation of this two-year session. Almost no one noticed.”

Alexander has a point. The bill, boldly named “the America COMPETES Act,” authorized an additional \$16 billion over four years as part of a \$60 billion effort to “double spending for physical sciences research, recruit 10,000 new math and science teachers and retrain 250,000 more, provide grants to researchers and invest more in high-risk, high-payoff research.”

As Alexander noted, “these were recommendations of a National Academy of Sciences task force” that he and others had asked to tell Congress the 10 things it most urgently needs to do “to help America keep its brainpower advantage so we can keep our jobs from going to China and India.”

Back in December 2005, I wrote about the report that Alexander, and Sens. Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici, both of New Mexico, had requested—and about the bipartisan support that seemed to be available for this “competitiveness” agenda. I even suggested that it was a natural topic for President Bush's 2006 State of the Union address, if he wanted to break through the growing partisan roadblocks on Capitol Hill.

The President included these ideas in his message, but did little to build public support or press Congress for action. Nonetheless, major elements of the bill passed the Senate last year, only to bog down in the bitterly divided House.

But persistence paid off. As Alexander said, “Senators and their staffs worked across party lines for two years. Senior committee members, chairmen and ranking members, waived jurisdictional prerogatives. The administration participated in extensive ‘homework sessions’ with senators and outside experts. The effort was so bipartisan that when the Senate shifted to the Democrats in January, the new majority leader and minority leader introduced the same bill their predecessors had in the last Congress. Seventy senators co-sponsored the legislation. . . . The final vote was 88-8.”

The fight is far from over.

The House has yet to act on most of the provisions, and finding the money to carry it out will not be easy. Alexander and Binga-

man added an amendment to the budget resolution, allowing \$1 billion of extra spending for the first-year costs of the program.

Domenici and other appropriators will try to steer funds in that direction, Alexander said.

The Tennessee Republican's larger point is that this is the model that Congress and the president need to follow—if any of the major challenges facing the country are to be met.

“There are issues that are too big for either party to solve by itself,” Alexander told me. “Globalization and competitiveness are two of them. Immigration is the next one on the agenda. And then there is health care.”

He pointed out that the bipartisan breakfast sessions he and Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut have been hosting regularly this year have included discussions of health policy.

As a byproduct of the breakfasts, “10 of us, five Republicans and five Democrats, have written the President saying that we are ready to work with him on a bill that has two principles—universal coverage and private markets. We hope he responds.”

Iraq looms as the supreme test, of course, and Alexander, a Bush supporter, nonetheless says “it was a mistake” for the president not to seize on the Baker-Hamilton commission recommendations as the basis for a bipartisan answer to the dilemma of the war.

“It's still sitting there on the shelf,” he said, implying that Bush will have to come back to Baker-Hamilton at some point.

Meantime, Alexander has a gentle reminder for the press that our mind-set means that “unfortunately, bipartisan success, even on the biggest, most complex issues, has an excellent chance of remaining a secret.”

“Despite the size of the accomplishment, the passage of the 208-page America COMPETES Act was barely noticed by the major media.”

This is not a complaint, merely an observation. More than ever, the media, outside interest groups, and party structures reward conflict and the taking of irreconcilable positions. There is little reward for reconciling principled positions into legislation.”

Sadly, I think he is right.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING UNITED PARCEL SERVICE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate the United Parcel Service on its 100th anniversary. In these 100 years, many of us have grown to see UPS's ubiquitous brown vans as symbols of reliability and to know and trust the remarkable people who drive them. As UPS has evolved to become the largest package delivery company in the world, it has become a cornerstone of commerce in America and a vital part of my State's economy.

When James E. Casey founded UPS in 1907 with a \$100 loan from a friend, surely it would have been beyond even his wildest dreams that the company would grow to deliver 15.6 million documents and packages every day, to employ 360,600 employees here in the United States, and to make deliveries to over 200 countries and territories throughout the world. By constantly innovating and improving service and

through the dedication of its employees, UPS has reached the pinnacle of its industry and has set the standard by which its competitors must follow.

I am proud to say that since opening their first facility in Newark, NJ, in 1928, UPS has maintained a significant presence in my home State of New Jersey. It employs more than 18,000 people statewide, making it one of the 10 largest employers in our State. I recently had the privilege and opportunity to visit a UPS hub in Edison to help commemorate UPS's 100th anniversary. At the Edison facility, 3,000 dedicated employees process and sort packages originating from and destined for points all over our State. Individuals and businesses across New Jersey rely on their efforts every day, and the intricate and sophisticated processes used by these employees ensure that important packages and documents are delivered on time.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating UPS on 100 years in business. I personally extend my best wishes to the company and its employees in New Jersey and across the world for many more years of success and prosperity.●

TRIBUTE TO WALTER M. "WALLY" SCHIRRA

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I want to commend a great American, Astronaut Walter M. "Wally" Schirra, who passed away today. Captain Schirra leaves behind a praiseworthy legacy as a Navy veteran, a pioneer for NASA and of outer-space exploration, a television commentator, and a devoted husband and father.

Captain Schirra began his distinguished career in the U.S. Navy when he arrived in Annapolis in the early days of World War II; he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1945 and soon became a pilot through Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, FL. Through an exchange program with the Air Force during the Korean war, he proudly served our Nation as a pilot of F-86 Sabres.

He carried this dedicated service to America into the stratosphere and beyond, making history as one of the "Original Seven" astronauts named by NASA to the Mercury program. On October 3, 1962, Captain Schirra became the first person ever to orbit the Earth 6 times. He is unique in that he is the only astronaut to have flown in NASA's first 3 space programs: Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. After retiring from NASA, he later served with distinction as a widely known television commentator for CBS.

The passion that Wally Schirra had for space exploration and his accomplishments as a pioneer astronaut underscore the importance of our continuing to strengthen the NASA space program. The Apollo 7 mission—under the command of Schirra—proved to those at NASA that they had the ability to send a spacecraft into orbit

around the moon. Since then, NASA has taken many giant leaps. We must continue the exploration, research, and discovery that have all constituted NASA's trademark for decades.

Exploration into outer space helps us to better understand the world in which we live. NASA understood this well when they sent Captain Wally Schirra into outer space nearly 45 years ago; I am hopeful that this vision and reach will only continue to grow with time.

On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I thank Captain Schirra for his service to country and the science he helped to advance. He will be missed.●

HONORING MAINELY TRUSSES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize, for the week of April 29, an exceptional entrepreneur from my home State who has been awarded the Maine 2007 Small Business Person of the Year, Michael Boulet. Mike is truly one of our Nation's shining small business success stories. His company—Mainely Trusses—exemplifies the heart and soul of the American dream becoming reality.

Last March, I had the privilege to witness first hand the products and services that Mike's company provides when he was awarded an intermediary relending program loan from Kennebec Valley Council of Governments.

Mike's investment in his company through the Small Business Administrations' Maine Small Business Development Center and Costal Enterprises, Inc., has paid tremendous dividends for the future of Mainely Trusses—with a state-of-the-art facility, new technologies, a dedication to customer service, and full benefits for his employees. In fact, Mainely Trusses is so advanced that they use all laser beams to construct the trusses which is completely driven by computer software and highly skilled employees.

Since Mike has been president, Mainely Trusses has shown no signs of slowing down, growing from 3 to 50 employees over the last 15 years—a tremendous achievement for any business. Think about it—that is a 1,600-percent increase. Just imagine if we had that kind of explosive progress in the U.S. Congress, then we would really be onto something.

And what is all the more remarkable is Mike's courage to take on the family business after his father, John Boulet, passed away in a work-related accident. But Mike doesn't just reserve his considerable talents and energy for his business—he also exhibits those traits through his tireless leadership within the community whether serving as a member of the Maine Merchants Association Workers Compensation Trust Fund Board of Trustees, chairing the board for the Central Maine Youth Hockey Association, supporting Habitat for Humanity, or his involvement with Vietnamese orphanages and children's center.

The fact is small businesses are the critical element in our efforts to strengthen and bolster the Nation's economy. It used to be said, "What's good for General Motors is good for the Nation." Now, it is what is good for small business is best for the Nation and job growth.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am reminded daily of the immense—and often overlooked—contributions that risk-takers and dreamers like Mike and countless Americans make. They are the unsung heroes of our Nation's economy, creating two-thirds of all new jobs throughout our country.

That is why I appreciate SBA's commitment to providing our Nation's small businesses, as they have helped Mike, with the financial and business development tools to help them grow and excel. With more than 5.3 million jobs created or retained since 1999, this is proof-positive that our investment in the SBA is paying tremendous dividends to the Nation's economy.

We understand that Maine is a veritable "hotbed" for small business and a small business laboratory for the country. This year, at the vanguard of Maine entrepreneurs stands Mike Boulet. Once again, I would like congratulate Mike for being an exceptional model for Maine and the Nation. We here in the Senate wish Mike all the best for many more successful years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO VINCENZO ANTONIO MANNO

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I honor the musical genius of fellow Ohioan Vincenzo Antonio Manno, a renowned opera singer and devoted professor of music.

Mr. Manno was born and raised in my great hometown of Cleveland, OH. In fact, he grew up right down the street from my family in the Collinwood neighborhood—the same neighborhood I live in still today. But his musical gift eventually took him far beyond Collinwood to some of the finest music institutions in Europe.

Cleveland's rich cultural environment and outstanding music tradition prepared Mr. Manno for his world-renowned career. Before completing his studies at Oberlin College under the tutelage of Professor Richard Mill, Mr. Manno was trained at the Cleveland Music School Settlement under Burton Garlinghouse and John Shurtleff; at summer sessions in Chautauqua, NY, under Josephine Antoine; and at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Eleanor Steber.

After receiving his degree from Oberlin, Mr. Manno continued his studies on a Fulbright Fellowship in Italy at Santa Cecilia in Rome with Ettore Campogalliani. His private studies in Milan continued with Dr. Otto Mueller, who was affiliated for years with the Metropolitan Opera House of New York.